



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Newsletter

APRIL 1990

STUDENTS' NEWS

The Friends of the Royal Academy of Music are shortly to make their first donation - £1000 for new CDs. This is splendid news for the hard-pressed Library. The Friends would also like students to know that practice facilities are available at certain of their members' homes: enquiries to the Development Office (G7) in the first instance.

Graham Caskie was recently awarded a Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe scholarship.

The two 1990 RAM Prizewinners Concerts take place on 2nd and 16th May respectively in the Purcell Room. **Hans-Peter** and **Volker Stenzl** and **Peter Sheppard** with **Aaron Shorr** are the performers. Can you be there? These South Bank concerts are an important item in the RAM calendar: tickets from the Royal Festival Hall (01-928 8800).

Mark O'Brien has been performing regularly as an extra with the City of Birmingham Symphony since December and with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group which broadcast a recital on BBC Radio Three in March.

Congratulations to the Gould Piano Trio (**Lucy Gould**, **Martin Storey** and **Gretel Dowdesworth**) who in March won the valuable Charles Heuen Concours chamber music prize in Holland.

Esther Geldard (viola), currently co-principal viola of the European Community Youth Orchestra, has been asked to perform at the June opening of the 1990 World Cup in a special orchestra being formed for the occasion by the International Orchestra of Italy.

The familiar face of tuba-player **Lee Tsarmaklis** stares out at one and all from the new poster produced by Besson Tubas for Boosey and Hawkes.

Hilary Summers received wonderful reviews in the Times and Daily Telegraph following her appearance in Chelsea Opera Group's 'Daphne', conducted by Norman del Mar, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in March.

Neal Davies has obtained a coveted place at the Zurich International Opera Centre based at the Zurich Opera House for ten months - the most pressing thing for him is to learn German asap.

Jonathan Ayerst played the Tchaikovsky Piano Concert with the Guildford Symphony Orchestra on 21st April.

Geraint Miles, Geraint Roberts and Catherine Hamilton sang in 'Il Signor Bruschino' (Rossini) at King's College London in early March.

Ashley Solomon (recorder) and **Sarah Pope** (harpsichord) played sonatas by Castello, Loeillet, Marcello and Notari and **Stephen Knight** (harpsichord) pieces by Rameau when they joined Virginia Black for a concert in Harlow. Ashley, who is now teaching recorder on the Performing Arts Course at Middlesex Poly (part-time), also runs 'Brash Discos' (tel 958.3229) - contact him for your next party.

On 11th July, his birthday, **Philip Sunderland** will be performing a new work by him - 'Like as the Hart' (Psalm 42) - with the St Olave's Singers at St Olave's Church, nr Tower Hill. Philip occasionally gives Sunday afternoon organ recitals at St Paul's Cathedral.

Kay Smith (soprano) will join the Glyndebourne Chorus for three months this summer.

A notice to all students leaving at the end of this term - PLEASE complete the form that you will be handed giving the Academy your next known address, so that we can keep you in touch with activities. Also we would like to include news of your activities in the RAM Magazine. So please do fill in the Leavers' Form.

PROFESSORS' NEWS

Xue-Wei's recording of the Bruch G minor Concerto and the Saint-Saens B minor Concerto with the Philharmonia Orchestra under the ASV label has been highly praised by both Gramophone and Hi-Fi News. Xue-Wei also releases a Violin Virtuoso album and the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Philharmonia in April and May 1990 respectively.

The death of **Christian Codina** was a sad blow to the Opera Department. Equally sad was the death in February of **Sheila Lawrence** GRSM (Research Fellow), following a recurrence of a cancer condition. She was a devotee of the keyboard performance of Baroque music and had worked with our organists and harpsichordists for a year or two.

Jeremy Pike once again extols the facilities for electro-acoustic music. "The beginners' studio (Manson Room 1) is equipped with a full range of MIDI instruments and 8-track recording, providing professional-quality facilities within an uncomplicated environment. The advanced studio (Manson Room 2) now boasts 24-track recording and a new 32-channel mixing desk. Excellent facilities are therefore available for those wanting to experiment with recording or synthesis, and for composers and songwriters needing professional results. Master tapes are now produced on DAT (digital audio tape) for first-class results. Help and tuition are available at all levels."

If you are interested contact Jeremy Pike as soon as possible.

Peter Holtslag's Vivaldi solo recorder Concerto was released recently on the Hyperion label; his De Boismortier Quadros appeared on the Globe label with his ensemble La Fontegara Amsterdam (who are touring Europe May-September).

Fowke at Forty is the title of a Wigmore Hall concert on 29th June. Philip Fowke will also play Prokofiev's First Piano Concerto at the Proms on 1st September. This follows on from his talks on Benno Moiseiwitsch on BBC Radio 3, his appearances at the Festival Hall and Barbican, his trips to Italy and Thailand, and the release of Finzi's Fantasy and Toccata for Piano and Orchestra (on EMI) with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra...

Arthur Wills's Concerto for Organ and Guitar receives its first performance at the 25th Harrogate International Festival on Saturday 28th July. So far as is known it is the first work specifically composed for this instrumental combination (Arthur Wills plays the organ, Fiona Richardson the guitar). Arthur retires from Ely Cathedral in July and is currently working on his "Missa Sancti Etheldredae" to be performed in Ely on St Etheldreda's Day, 22nd June, and by the Three Choirs of Ely, Peterborough and Norwich in Peterborough Cathedral on 2nd July.

The three members of the **Amadeus Quartet** (**Norbert Brainin, Siegmund Nissel and Martin Lovett**) played a highly successful concert at the QEH on 27th January, joining forces with three members of the Alban Berg Quartet in Brahms' Sextet Op.18. Money was raised for the Amadeus Scholarship Fund which helps quartets to attend the "Amadeus Summer Course", part of the RAM/Regent's College International Summer School (28th July - 10th August). Repeat performances of the Sextet took place in Vienna, recorded for CD by EMI.

John Bigg is Chairman of the European Piano Teachers Association which, apart from links with the USA, Japan and Australia, is now welcoming East European affiliations.

Timothy Baxter reports that rapid progress is being made with the cataloguing of the Priaulx Rainier collection of letters, reviews, programmes, photographs etc. This was presented to RAM by June Opie and the cataloguing is being done by **Ruth Burchmore**.

As well as releasing for EMI the first recording on the new St Marylebone organ, **Catherine Ennis** has produced a son, Patrick. She says that both CD and baby are doing well.

David Owen Norris has been filming a BBC TV 90-minute programme about the authentic performance of music, including shots of instruments from the Broadwood collection. He also gave a concert in Stuttgart with David Wilson-Johnson which was reviewed as 'the best since Britten and Pears came', a slightly worrying parallel (his words, not ours). Norris also demonstrated a Bosendorfer Computerised Piano to help make a small boy's wish come true on 'Jim 'Il Fix It' at the end of March.

John Scott, Professor of Organ, has been appointed organist and director of music at St Paul's Cathedral, one of the youngest men to hold the post in the Cathedral's history.

Michael Dussek goes off to Japan this month for a 15-concert tour with cellist Ofra Harnoy. Their recording of sonatas by Schubert and Prokofiev was voted Classical Record of the Year by Canadian music critics.

GENERAL NEWS

It's almost superfluous to offer congratulations to all who organized and took part in the **American Music Festival**. A full review will appear in the June issue of the RAM Magazine.

New members of the administrative staff include **Frances Campbell** (Projects Manager), **Roy Clifford** (Management Accountant), **Georgina Jones** (Data Processing Manager), **Patrick Johnston** (Security), **Matthew Barnett** (Accounts Assistant), **Kathryn Adamson** (Library), **Lydia Richardson**, (Library).

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, the President of the Academy, will distribute certificates and prizes on Wednesday 4th July in St Marylebone Church.

The Duke's Hall is due to close for refurbishment at the end of term (no, really). It is likely to be out of action for nine months.

Michael Lewin points out that the Dodgson Guitar Festival (5th/6th July) contains three concerts 'to celebrate the unique contribution made to the guitar's repertoire by Stephen Dodgson'. A wide range of solo and ensemble items will be featured and the final event will include a performance of the Concerto No.1 for guitar and chamber orchestra and the Symphony (in one movement) conducted by Stephen Dodgson himself.

The RAM Brass Ensemble will celebrate the innovative 1990s by introducing a brand-new concept at their annual concert in Duke's Hall on 19th June. Double Entendre has been commissioned by Chris Sansom for solo piano and stereophonic brass band.

Jane McFarland (Security) says that no one seems capable of understanding her perfect Scottish accent. She wants everyone to know that when she says 'Foan fur ye' she means 'this call is for you'; when she's 'skunnered' she's feeling at a low ebb; 'haud oan' is 'wait one minute'; and 'whaur ye gon' is a stern challenge to a visitor who's slipped past the front desk. A saying from the Counsellor: 'Mozart belonged to a Wolfgang'.

Thoughts for the Day

"All editors think 'allegro appassionato' means 'go faster' and all Italian Romeos know it means 'go slower'...

'Apart from musicianship, is there anything else worth discussing?'. . .

"While we can all hear, few seem to have the capacity for listening".

For these quotes and more, read on! Anton Weinberg, who left the Academy in 1965 and has just returned from a period as a Professor of Music at Indiana University, has kindly donated copies of his little book of musical and music-related quotes - "Unfinished Sentences" - which is available for 75p from Janet Snowman in the Development Office. Foreword by Sir Yehudi Menuhin. Ideal presents for friends at Graduation, as a thank-you to parents and teachers and for sitting with, contemplatively, in front of a warm fire with a wee dram.